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News Release

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Man pleads guilty to robbing Edina bank, leading police on a high-speed chase

A 22-year-old man pleaded guilty today in federal court of one count of armed bank robbery and one count of use of a firearm during a crime of violence in connection with the holdup of a TCF Bank in Edina on April 23.

Dante Kenneth Benson-Henry, unknown address, entered his plea July 1 in Minneapolis before United States District Court Judge Richard Kyle. Benson-Henry was indicted on May 19.

According to his plea agreement, Benson-Henry admitted that he robbed the TCF Bank, located at 6775 York Ave. on April 23 and left the bank with approximately \$5,150.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, the robber entered the bank, located inside a Cub Foods store, at approximately 2:30 p.m. He approached a teller and placed a note on the counter that stated "This is a holdup. I have a gun. 100s, 50s and 20s only, put the money on the counter and act normal." The teller complied, and the robber grabbed the cash, walked calmly out of the bank and left on foot.

Shortly after the robbery, law enforcement observed a man matching the description of the robber acting suspiciously as he was driving southbound on France Avenue through the intersection of 84th Street. The officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop to question the individual, but the vehicle accelerated and fled. Police pursued and chased the suspect at speeds in excess of 80 mph.

Officers forced the vehicle to a stop at the intersection of Pioneer Trail and South Highway 169. The man fled on foot, but was chased down by police and was arrested trying to gain entry into a residence. The suspect was later identified as Benson-Henry.

Police recovered from Benson-Henry a .357 revolver, and seized items from his vehicle, including the cash and additional clothing that matched those described in the bank robbery.

Benson-Henry faces a potential maximum penalty of 25 years in prison on the bank robbery count and life in prison on firearm count. Judge Kyle will determine Benson-Henry's sentence at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI and the Edina Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Nancy E. Brasel and Erica H. MacDonald.